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Spring 2019

HUM 101-012: Writing, Speaking, Thinking

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Recommended Citation

Ascarelli, Miriam, "HUM 101-012: Writing, Speaking, Thinking" (2019). *Humanities Syllabi*. 131.
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Humanities 101: Writing, Speaking, Thinking Spring 2019

Instructor: Miriam Ascarelli

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Office hours: 1-2:20 p.m. p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and by appointment

Welcome to Humanities 101! HUM 101 is an introduction to college-level writing. In this course, we'll be talking about writing's rhetorical dimensions, and you will be asked to consider how purpose, audience, occasion, and genre come into play in a variety of different readings as well as in your own writing. We'll begin by writing a short personal essay to learn how to use personal experiences to craft compelling narratives, and then we'll use the readings and writing assignments in our class to better understand Newark's past, present and future. This course also focuses on the writing process, so we'll be brainstorming topics, writing drafts, and revising writing based on reflection and peer feedback.

Texts (to be provided by instructor and posted on Moodle):

- Course packet with several readings on the writing process as well as essays by Sandra Cisneros ("Only Daughter"), Anne Lamott ("Shitty First Drafts"), Malcolm X ("Learning to Read"), Jessica Hamaier ("Farm Girl,"), Tanya Barrientos ("Se Habla Español), Russell Baker ("On Becoming a Writer"), Suki Kim ("Facing Poverty with a Rich Girl's Habits")
- Orlean, Susan. "Meet the Shaggs." *The New Yorker*. 27 Sept. 1999.
- *Revolution '67*. Dir. Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno. P.O.V, 2008
- Background materials about the film to be provided by instructor
- Selected chapters from: Curvin, Robert. *Inside Newark: Decline, Rebellion and the Search for Transformation*. Rutgers U. Press: Piscataway, NJ: 2014.

Course objectives:

- Gain knowledge of writing's rhetorical dimensions
- Use writing as a tool for critical thinking and reflection
- Practice writing as a process by using various brainstorming, invention, revision, and editing strategies
- Write in several genres that utilize analysis, reflection, narrative, critique, and argument skills
- Practice using the conventions of written, spoken, and visual composition

Grading (grades will be posted on Moodle)

- Formal papers (3): 80 percent (All formal papers must be turned in and must be of passing quality in order to pass the course.)
- Homework: 10 percent
- Participation + one required tutoring session at NJIT Writing Center: 5 percent
- In-class writing: 5 percent

Final Grades: A = 90 – 100 B+ = 87 – 89 B = 80 – 86 C+ = 77 – 79 C = 70 – 76
D = 60 – 69 F = 0 – 59

Attendance

Attendance is critical to your success in this class. Participation in in-class activities, discussions, and workshops will contribute to your knowledge, ability, and performance. Participation cannot be demonstrated by chronic absences or sickness, similar to the professional world. At a minimum, this means showing up on time, being prepared, and contributing to class discussions. Your level of engagement with the material will subsequently impact how much you get from the class.

Four absences or more will result in the automatic lowering of your grade by one letter grade. Six or more absences will result in automatic failure in the course. Chronic tardiness will result in the lowering of your grade. (Two lates = 1 absence.)

Please contact your classmates to find out about missed work.

Late work

Late papers will automatically be downgraded by one letter grade. Papers more than a week late will not be accepted. **Reading responses and homework will be graded on a 4-point scale.** Late reading responses/homework will be given half credit. You have until the class period after the original due date to turn it in. **Anything later will not be accepted.**

NJIT University Code on Academic integrity

Academic integrity and honesty are of paramount importance. Any violations will be brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students. This includes plagiarism (representing another's writing as your own.)

Revision

You may revise your papers for a higher grade. Revisions are due within a week after you get the original assignment back. **To get a better grade, you must make substantial revisions.** Your final grade will be an average of the first grade and the second one.

Technology

If you need to get a hold of me email is my preferred method. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours. Please plan accordingly. Remember to maintain an appropriate tone in all school-related correspondence. This means to include an appropriate SUBJECT line and your NAME in all emails. I will not respond to emails that do not include the sender's name.

Cell phones should not be used during class unless needed for a specific activity. Please set them to silent as a courtesy to your classmates and instructor.

Laptops should only be open when we are drafting. For discussions and presentations they should remain closed.

All drafts of all assignments should be kept in hard copy with comments and grades attached.

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Class schedule
Subject to change

Week 1 (1 class): Welcome, intros, go over syllabus; Readings: “Shitty First Drafts,” “What is ‘Academic’ Writing?” + “Murder! (Rhetorically speaking)”

Week 2: in-class writing; Readings: How to Read like a Writer + personal essays by Cisneros, Malcolm X, Barrientos, Kim and Baker

Week 3: Jessica Hemmauer readings + in-class writing

Week 4: Peer reviews of first and second drafts of paper #1; Readings: “Making Meaning Clear: The Logic of Revision” + “Meet the Shaggs” (Orlean)

Week 5: Paper #1 due; begin viewing “Revolution ‘67’”; begin Curvin readings

Week 6: Finish viewing “Revolution ‘67’”

Week 7: Discuss film & Curvin readings + begin paper #2

Week 8: Paper #2 due

Week 9: SPRING BREAK

Week 10: Newark research/fieldwork

Week 11: Newark research/fieldwork

Week 12 Start paper #3

Week 13: Paper #3 due

Week 14: TBA; in-class writing

Week 15: Wrap-up

The Writing Center at NJIT

Location: Basement of Central King Building
Contact: Dr. Catherine Siemann

Phone: (973) 596-3664
Email: catherine.a.siemann@njit.edu

Spring 2019 hours: M-Th 10-7, F 11:30-4; <http://www5.njit.edu/writingcenter>

The Writing Center is available for **FREE, 40-minute individual and group appointments** with professional and peer writing consultants both onsite. This resource is intended to help you to improve your communication and writing skills. Tutors can help with planning assignments, improving your writing, refining an essay or multimedia project, or other communication-based needs. The Writing Center can assist with the following:

Generating Ideas, Developing Arguments, Working Through Drafts, Revising Effectively Any Level, Any Project, Any Class (including THIS class), Oral Presentations & Conversation Practice, Personal Statements & Project Proposals

ALL Students, including ESL Students, are Welcome to the Writing Center!

This is a free service. For more information on how to sign up for appointments, see the Writing Center's website: <http://www5.njit.edu/writingcenter/> or stop by.